

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ISLAMA 11430 211853Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 OES-07 IO-13 CIAE-00 INR-07
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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4756

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 11430

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EGEN, PK
SUBJECT: PAKISTAN POLICY ON FAMILY PLANNING

1. DURING CONVERSATION WITH AMB HUMMEL NOV 20, HEAD OF GOVT GEN ZIA GAVE ENCOURAGING STATEMENT ON FAMILY PLANNING.

2. ZIA EMPHASIZED HIS PERSONAL SUPPORT FOR SUCH PROGRAMS, AND HIS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT PREVIOUS EFFORTS HAD NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN REDUCING ANNUAL APPROXIMATE THREE PERCENT GROWTH RATE. HE CITED TWO IMPEDIMENTS: THE SECLUDED STATUS OF MANY PAKISTANI WOMEN WHICH MADE ACCESS DIFFICULT, AND THE INEFFECTIVENESS OF THE BHUTTO-SPONSORED EFFORTS WHICH HE SAID HIRED 30,000 FAMILY PLANNING WORKERS, MOST OF WHOM WERE QUITE UNQUALIFIED AND WERE USED BY BHUTTO AS PROMOTERS OF THE PEOPLE'S PARTY.

3. IN ANSWER TO THE AMB'S QUESTION, ZIA ASSERTED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING IN MUSLIM LAW OR DOCTRINE THAT SHOULD INHIBIT POPULATION PLANNING, AND THAT "NIZAM-7-MUSTAFA" OR THE RULE OF ISLAMIC LAW, WOULD POSE NO BARRIER TO EFFECTIVE WORK ON PAKISTAN'S POPULATION PROBLEM.

4. SECY GEN IN CHIEF GHULAM ISHAQ, WHO WAS PRESENT, TOOK PAINS TO POINT OUT AT LENGTH WHAT HE CATEGORIZED AS FAILURES OF PAST INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE EFFORTS IN

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THIS FIELD, AND THE LONG-RANGE OUTLOOK THAT HAD TO BE ADOPTED, WITHOUT MUCH HOPE OF SHORT-TERM GAINS. ISHAQ, IN MILD CONTRADICTION TO ZIA, ALSO NOTED SOME RESISTANCE AMONG PAKISTANI MUSLIMS TO FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS. HUMMEL

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Message Attributes

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